

7/8 Coach Pitch Baseball/Softball “Special Games” Tournament 2019

The Tournament rules for League age 7-8 participants for Baseball and Softball have been developed and approved collectively by the Local League Presidents and District 3 Staff utilizing regular season Minor Division rules. Please remember that these “SPECIAL GAMES” are a Local League / District 3 event and are not a part of the International Tournaments which includes league ages 8 thru 16 for the various divisions of play. All Host sites will be expected to utilize the 2019 WVD3 Tournament Guidelines and Expectations booklet.

The “Special Games” Tournament will be played using Regular Season Rules with a Double Elimination Tournament Format with the finals consisting of the top teams from each area. The eventual winner will be declared District 3 Champion and will receive a District flag. Tournament areas and finals bracket will be provided to each League prior to the June 1, 2019 (Baseball) and (Softball) Tournament start.

The playing rules for the 2019 West Virginia District 3 Little League Baseball and Softball Tournament for League Age 7 & 8-year-old (**only**) players in both Baseball and Softball will be the same as per the 2019 Little League Baseball/Softball Official Regulations and Playing Rules for **Regular Season** play i.e. curfew 10:00 pm. The following exceptions will apply.

Rosters:

There will be a minimum of nine (9) players on the official roster. Replacement players may be used if for any reason a player must be dropped from a roster. Rosters will be submitted to the Tournament Director (I.E. League President, League Representative, etc.) at each Tournament site no later than one hour prior to the teams first game; will be on plain paper, must be legible, and will contain the following: Name of League, Name of Team, Player name, birth date and league age, copy of their Birth Certificate, Manager name and up to three (3) Coaches names and telephone numbers, and signed by the League President. If the Roster is not submitted according to these rules, the Team will not be allowed to play until these conditions are met.

Player Dress:

Minimum requirement for player dress will be same color, different numbered “Tee” shirts and cap/visor.

Medical Releases:

A Medical Release, properly completed and signed by the parent or guardian, must be obtained by the manager for each player, and carried with the team at all times during practice or games. The possession of Medical Releases will be checked no later than one hour prior to the Teams first game by the Tournament Director, Safety Official or any WVD3 Staff member. Medical releases may be requested by the above personnel prior to or during any game. Failure by the Manager to have all required Medical Releases will delay his/her team from participating until the Medical releases are produced.

Injuries shall be reported to the Tournament Director who will then notify the District Safety Officer.

ASAP (A Safety Awareness Program):

All Leagues and Host Tournament sites are expected to comply with their individual 2019 Safety Plans i.e. – First Aid Kits available at all fields at all times; Thirty-minute lightning delays – players will be removed from the field at first sign of lightning, etc.

Game Balls:

The host site League is responsible for providing an adequate supply of baseballs or softballs for the duration of the Tournament. The balls will be consistent with Little League Inc. specifications as described in the 2019 Official Regulations and Playing Rules for Baseball or Softball Regular Season. All Baseballs/Softballs **shall** meet the specifications of Rule 1.09. The host site League may require participating teams (for their game) to provide balls proportionally prior to and throughout the duration of their game.

Scorebook:

Each team will be expected to keep their own scorebook; however, the Host site will provide an official scorebook and scorekeeper. The Official Scorebook will be the official record. It is the responsibility of the Manager of each team to check the Official book for any discrepancies.

No shows:

Games involving teams not showing up shall be an immediate forfeit.

Umpire:

The host League is responsible for providing (2) knowledgeable volunteer persons, at least 18 years of age, to act in the capacity of Umpire for each game. The Umpire shall be positioned in the infield behind the pitcher and to their immediate right or left. The Umpire will make all calls of “safe” and “out”, “fair” and “foul”; will be responsible for the pitch count; **(SEE PITCHING SECTION BELOW I.E. BATTER RECEIVES FOUR (4) PITCHES ETC)**, will declare any batted ball not traveling beyond the arc a dead ball (Foul Ball), and have the authority to enforce any and all Official LL Rules and the rules within this document and their decision will be final. Umpires will be charged with assuring that the game moves along in a timely manner. Each Umpire shall dress alike (same color shirt, cap/visor).

Pitching:

Coach Pitch - All pitching will be by the Manager or a Coach (within the 16-foot diameter circle) of his or her own players/team. **(NOTE – The Circle around the mound or pitching plate is there only for the purpose of the Adult Coach Pitcher to stay within as he/she delivers a pitch)**. Each batter will receive **(4) Four pitches to put the ball in play (Under no circumstances will the batter be called out if he/she swings and misses (3) Three straight pitches)**. If the batter continues to foul pitches or continues to hit the ball on the ground that does not travel completely beyond the arc line (Dead Ball/Foul Ball) then the at bat will continue until the batter either puts the ball in

play or swings and misses. Any fly ball or pop-up not traveling completely beyond the arc line but is caught by a player is considered an out. There will be no walks. The Manager/Coach will at no time field the ball; the pitcher must present it to him/her. **PENALTY:** If the Manager/Coach fields the ball, any and all base runners will be returned to the last base legally touched (Dead Ball/Foul Ball) and the batter continues his/her at bat.

Batting: Coach Pitch Minor:

Bunts will not be allowed. Batting order will consist of all players present at the game and remain constant and continuous (i.e. the Manager will submit a Batting Order with all players present at the game. All players will bat in that order the entire game and will not be changed (**NOTE:** Any player arriving at the game after the game has started will be inserted at the bottom of original batting order). **All games will be SIX (6) inning games.** The half inning will be over once the defense has achieved 3 outs or, through the first Five (5) innings, will be over as soon as the 5th run crosses the plate, the Sixth (6th) inning along with any following innings will be unlimited. Coach Pitch Minor will utilize the same “arc” currently used for T-Ball. The arc is determined by measuring 15 feet from the back tip of home plate up each foul line then marking the 15-foot arc between the foul lines. Any ground ball not traveling completely beyond the arc line will be considered a dead ball/foul ball. Any fly ball or pop-up not traveling completely beyond the arc line but is caught by a player is considered an out.

Runners: Coach Pitch Minor

There will be no stealing of bases. Runners may advance a **maximum** of one (1) base on **ANY** overthrow; however, the runner is at risk to be put out while attempting to advance. **Exception** – Overthrows outside the playing area (**I.E.** in the stands or dead ball areas) the Runner(s) will be awarded one (1) base. Also to be utilized is the “return line” which is to be marked 30 feet from each base towards the next (i.e. measure 30 feet from 1st base to second base and make a line across the base path) If a runner has not passed the return line once play has stopped they must return to the previous base.

How play is Stopped:

Play is stopped when the defense makes an out of a runner in accordance with Regular Season Little League Rules or when any player in the infield or any infielder or cutoff player (umpire judgment) releases the ball toward the pitcher. The pitcher does not have to be within the circle around the mound or have possession of the ball that was thrown to him/her. Remember, young players should be taught to throw to a base to attempt to get an out or throw to a cutoff player to relay to a base to attempt to get an out. All stopping of play will be an Umpire judgment call and will not be challenged by any adult Manager or Coach.

Defense: Coach Pitch Minor –

Only 9 players allowed. Three (3) players **MUST** be positioned in the outfield. (i.e.- in the grass). Infielders other than the pitcher may not be positioned more than 5 feet in

front of the baseline. The pitcher must be positioned immediately to the right or left of and slightly behind the adult coach selected to pitch to their team. All traditional defensive positions will be filled – pitcher, catcher, first, second and third base, shortstop and left, center and right field. “Overloading” a specific spot on the playing field will not be allowed. The Umpire will have the authority to require the defensive team to place players in those positions (as above).

Mandatory Play:

Every player on the roster must play six (6) consecutive defensive outs. Not fulfilling Mandatory Play requirements may result in suspension of the manager. The Tournament Director or Assistant Tournament Director and any WV District 3 Staff member responsible for enforcing this rule.

Innings: Coach Pitch Minor –

Each area game will consist of 6 innings. Each final (Double Elimination Bracket) game will consist of 6 innings. After four (4) innings, three and one half if the home team is ahead (In an area game or a final bracket game), the game will be considered official with regards to weather or curfew.

Mercy Rule:

If after four (4) innings, three and one half if the home team is ahead and one team has a lead of ten (10) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs must concede the victory to the opponent (in an area game or a final bracket game).

Adult Coaches – Offense and Defense:

Per rule 4.05 all games played within the Tournament will allow the use of two (2) adult base coaches provided that an adult coach or manager remains in the dugout with any remaining players. Offensive coaches must remain in the Coaching boxes. One (1) Defensive coach may be positioned in front of their dugout in the coaching box provided. The Coaching Box will be a 4ft by 6 ft box not to extend beyond the end of the physical dugout closest to first or third base. Only four (4) adults will be allowed in the dugout. If a scorekeeper other than the 4 adults is utilized, they must remain outside the dugout.

Protest:

There will be absolutely no protests. Any and all situations will be resolved immediately at the host site by the Umpire/ Tournament Director/Assistant Tournament Director/WV District 3 Staff.

Ejection:

Ejection of player, coach, or manager (report to DA, Tournament Director, ADA will notify the appropriate Local League President). Any Player, Coach, Manager or spectator ejected must leave the facilities immediately for the remainder of that game **AND** be suspended from the **NEXT PHYSICALLY PLAYED** game (Rule 4.07).

Water, Ice & Cups: Each participating team is responsible for bringing sufficient amounts of water, ice and cups (for their team) to the Host League Site.

Each Team will provide (TWO) 2 Baseballs or Softballs to the Host League prior to the start of each game played. After the Game the Host League shall return any Baseballs or Softballs back to each team.

WV3 District Staff recommends that a Female Manager, Coach or Team Representative be at all practices and games involving female players.

WV District 3 retains the right to re-arrange games(s), time(s), and schedule(s) etc for assurance of Tournament Completion in a Timely Manner.

NOTE: It is the responsibility of each participating League President to provide enough copies of the Special Games Rules for their appropriate League personnel and all Host Tournament Site Personnel, Umpires and all participating team Managers and Coaches are responsible for reviewing and understanding the rules prior to the start of the Tournament: